Sept 1975

# The MESSENGER

## THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

St. Stephen's, Milnrow & Littleborough

## ST. STEPHEN'S DIARY

**September**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sun. 7th | 11.00 am. | Rev. A. Nash |
| | 6.00 pm. | Service of Word & Sacrament |
| Tues.9th | 7.30 pm. | Ministers Class at the Manse (and each Tuesday) |
| Wed.10th | 2.00 pm. | Young Mums Group (& each Wed.) |
| Sun.14th | 11.00 am. | Mr. W. Brisk |
| | 6.00 pm. | Mr. D.S. Nuttall |
| Mon.15th | 6.30 pm. | Pilots (and each Monday) |
| | 8.00 pm. | Efforts Committee Mtg. |
| Tue.16th | 6.15 pm. | Envoys Rehearsal |
| | 7.0- 9.00 pm. | Coffee Evening at 24 Ladyhouse Close. |
| Wed.17th | 6.15 pm. | Rehearsal for Children (for Harvest Festival) |
| | 7.30 pm. | Junior Church Staff Meeting (in Pennine Room) |
| | 7.30 pm. | Whist Drive (& each Wednesday) |
| Fri.19th | 7.30 pm. | Meeting in Pennine Room for Helpers for Young Peoples Fellowship |
| Sun.21st | 11.00 am.) | HARVEST FESTIVAL |
| | 6.00 pm.) | Rev. F. Thomson (Alkrington) |
| Tue.23rd | | Ladies Guild Outing |
| Wed.24th | 7.30 pm. | Church Meeting |
| Sat.27th | 11.00 am. | Lay Preachers Conference at Bamford |
| Sun.28th | 11.00 am. | Mr. K. Alexander |
| | 6,00 pm. | Mr. D. Jones |

**October**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Thur.2nd | 7.30 pm. | Womens Rally at Blackford Bridge. |
| Fri. 3rd | | District Meeting |
| 3rd. | 7.30 pm. | Palm Court |

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**FLOWERS FOR COMMUNION TABLE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Setp.7th | Miss J. Reed | Mrs. A. Travis |
| 14th | - | |
| 21st | HARVEST | |
| 28th | Mrs. D. Bruckshaw | Mrs. D. Brewin |
| Oct. 5th | Mrs. D. Hey | |

## LITTLEBOROUGH DIARY

**September**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sun. 7th | | No Service - HOLIDAY |
| Sun.14th | 10.30 am. | Rev. A. Nash |
| Tue.16th | 7.30 pm. | Womens Guild: Miss Kathleen Heaps |
| Wed.17th | 6.45 pm. | Pilotx |
| Sun.21st | 10.30 am. | Mrs. Nash |
| Wed.24th | 6.45 pm. | Pilots |
| *Thur.25th | 7.30 pm. | Mens Fellowship: Rev. A. Nash |
| Sun.28th | | HARVEST FESTIVAL |
| | 10.30 am. | "THE SEASONS" (Junior Church) |
| | 6.00 pm. | Thanksgiving Service: Rev.A. Nash |

**October**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Wed. 1st | 6.45 pm. | Pilots |
| Fri. 3rd | | District Meeting |
| Sun. 5th | 10.30 am. | Mr. J. Lord. (Promotion Sunday) Promotion awards presented by Mrs. Vincent. |

*Please Note
Saturday, Sept. 27th - 2.30 - 3.30 pm:
Harvest Gifts of Fruit and Flowers, etc.will be received.

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The Men's Stall would like to thank everyone who contributed to their Coffee Evening when the total raised was £6.25 towards the Autumn Fair.

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## FLOWERS FOR COMMUNION TABLE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sept. | 14th | Mrs. J. Shackleton |
| | 21st | Mrs. Nairn |
| | | Mrs. Grindrod |
| | 28th | HARVEST |
| Oct. | 5th | Mrs. Lightfoot |

From the Manse

September 1975

My dear friends,

Most of us, I am sure, know the chorus which goes:

"Count your blessings, name them one by one.
Count your blessings, see what God hath done.
Count your blessings, name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done."

How true it all is. When we look back upon those matters which had us worried stiff, and see the wonderful way in which we have come through them, we would be very ungrateful people indeed if we did not feel that we wanted to be thankful.

That is what Harvest Thanksgiving is about. Our eyes are perhaps focussed immediately upon the fruits of the earth - the corn and barley and oats, the potatoes, carrots, marrows, onions etc., but in fact our thanksgiving is wider and deeper than this. It is, if you like, a general thanksgiving to God for a multitude of blessings received and many great deliverances experienced.

The Americans have launched a probe to Mars to see if there is any life upon its apparently arid surface. It is doubtful if there is another planet in our solar system which could even support life. Yet here are we, set in the midst of breath-taking beauty. The variety of trees, the splendour of flowers, the whole magnificence of the earth and sky. Begin to count your blessings there and then follow through until you come to God's greatest blessing, Jesus Christ. You will be amazed at the number of things you should be thanking God for.

Our Harvest Thanksgiving Services will be on Sunday September 21st at St. Stephen's and on September 28th at Littleborough. Why not make a

special effort to bring along as many as you can to share in these happy occasions with us.

May God bless you and yours.

Your sincere friend and Minister

ALFRED NASH

Thought for th month:

"It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises to Thy name, O most high. To show forth Thy loving kindness in the morning, and Thy faithfulness every night."

Psalm 92: v.1

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OBITUARY

The funeral of Mrs. Elsie Aubrey, aged 82 years, too place on Thursday, 14th August at Rochdale Crematorium. She service was conducted by Rev. A. Nash.

May we offer pur deepest sympathy to the family at this time.

HOLY MATRIMONY

On Saturday, 16th August at St. Stephen's:

NORMA WITHINGTON of Hursted Rd., Milnrow

to

EDWARD RYAN of Manchester.

Officiating Minister: Rev. A.V.J. Nash B.A.

HOLY BAPTISM

On Sunday 3rd August at St. Stephen's:

GARRY JAMES WRIGHT, son of Michael and Glenda Wright.

## PILOTS PLOTTING A FRESH COURSE

The Pilot Company approaches the new session with the major disadvantage of losing its Captain and an Officer simultaneously. It is with regret that we report that neither Mr. Jack Collins nor Mr. Harry Mellor will be able to help in a regular capacity this year, and we would like to record the thanks of the many people who appreciate the hard work and sincere concern for children that these two have shown in the last few years. The future structure of the organisation is a little uncertain but we do know that Miss V.Fursey and Mr. A. Sharples have offered to assist the other officers, and the officers and helpers will be meeting on September 8th at 18 Pennine Drive to finalise arrangements for the opening night of the new session at 6.30 on Monday 15th September. Will all pilots, would-be pilots and pre-pilots take note.

## NEW VENTURE

Consideration is being given to the revival of a Youth Club at St. Stephen's. This will be held on Friday evenings for those aged 12 and over, and several people have already been asked to help. If you feel that you would like to offer your assistance in this important and neglected area of work, please come to the formative meeting on Friday, 19th September at 7.30 in the Pennine Room.

## MINISTER'S CLASS

WHERE? - The Manse

WHEN? 7.30 pm. on Tuesdays (from Sept. 9th)

PROGRAMME - Discussions, Prayer, Bible Study, Church Membership.

WHO MAY COME? Any who are interested and feel the need to learn more about the faith, to help to build others up, to seek God's Will for them.

## ROCKET REPORT

After the Church Anniversary the total was at £140. It now stands at £199. Keep going, folks!

## MINI MARKET

This is a reminder that the Mini Market will be on Saturday, 15th November, and now is the time to be thinking about goods for the stalls which will include: Handicrafts, Cakes, Groceries, Plants, Household Goods, and books in a good condition. Further details from the Efforts Committee members: Alec Rae, Harry Mellor, The Emmotts, Derek Lynch, Mrs. Starkie, Brenda Sharples, Dorothy Law, Mildred Howarth and Mrs. Nash.

## WE ARE THINKING ABOUT YOU.....

....DORIS BRUCKSHAW, who is making steady progress.

....ANNIE CLEGG, who is in Birch Hill and would welcome a visit.

....ANNIE COLLINS, who we hope is soon on the better side.

Remember all these in your prayers, please.

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JEAN'S BOTTLE PARTY - Many thanks to Mrs. Calow, Ian and Alan who cleared the bottles, papers and sundry rubbish away from the frontage of the church.

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Thanks too to Mrs. McBride of Hopwood for a gift of pictures of biblical themes for use in Junior Church. These will come in handy when our Sunday School lessons get back to the Bible again.

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## YOUNG MUMS BUILD UP

After a general get-together on September 10th, the session will start (im)properly with a visit first from Ian Royle on the 17th and then Pauline Royle on the 24th, but arrangements have then been made to follow this with a Health Visitor on 1st October. (Need one say more).

Please note, also the "build-up meeting" for members and husbands at 6, Shorefield Close (Ashes) home of the Sharples, on Thursday 25th Sept. at 7.45 pm.

OUTREACH

Preparations have been going on over the past few months for an "Outreach Campaign" in Milnrow and Newhey which will be held during October. When Christ founded the Church He gave very definate instructions regarding the work of mission. His people were to go out and take the Christian message to the world at large. We shall be attempting to do this in the Autumn. A detailed programme has been drawn up and this includes outside St. Stephen's as well as within.

Such a campaign depends for any success it may achieve upon two things in the main. First upon prayer. As aChurch we have been led to believe that the Campain we are undertaking is in God's will. That is the right place to begin. From that point we must continue on prayer, asking that God will bless and guide the efforts of all concerned. Everyone is asked to remember, in their pryaers, both the preparations and the Campaign itself.

The second vital element in this project is the dedication of the people to the work in hand. Over the centuries many Christians have learned that, with God, all things are possible, and if this campaign should bring to anyone the opportunity of doing something they have never before had to do - or feel they have not the capability to tackle - let us remember Who it is we serve, and that He will give power to do all things that are necessary.

* Pray for the Campaign that God will guide it.
* Pray for all who are engaged in it.
* Ask God to make plain what you can do.

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QUICKIES

- Envoys rehearsals start again at 6.15 on Tuesday, 16th September.
- HARVEST FESTIVAL preparations will take place on Saturday, 20th September: 3.30 - 5.0
- MINI MARKET -Saturday, 15th November. Goods are now required.

## LITTLEBOROUGH NEWS

A WELCOME to Mr. & Mrs. Robert Mullens who have been received into membership of our Church on transfer from Orangefield Presbyterian Church. We are glad to have you with us and we look forward to Mrs. Mullen's help in Junior Church from October.

A WEDDING ANNIVERSARY. Congratulations on a fourth wedding anniversary to Mr. & Mrs. Brassington of "Honresfeld". You two are a joy to visit.

BACK HOME is Mrs. Hoyle and she would be glad if you would pop-in for a chat.

MAKING PROGRESS in Birch Hill Hospital is Mr. Jack Leach. We hope you continue to mend, Sir.

SETTLING IN but why not go and see for yourself. Mr. Worthington is now at "Birch View" and would give you a real welcome.

A TOUCH OF GOLD for Mr. & Mrs. Tattersall who have just celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary. Congratulations and God Bless You both.

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## PEOPLE MAKE NEWS

How good it is to see so much news from Littlebro' in this month's "Messenger" - accompanied by a note from the correspondent, Mrs. Hill, saying quite rightly, "I think we are due for a large slice of the cake. Do your best!"

Fair enough, Kathleen, those who cook the news deserve the cake. We regret having to shorten a first rate item on Heptonstall but everything else we have managed to include.

This is a pleasant time to repeat that the "Messenger" is YOUR magazine. Its success depends on YOU making the news, YOU reporting the news and YOU reading it. It begins to fail when YOU allow someone to take YOUR magazine off YOU by monopolising it with their own material. That is true whether the someone is your sister congregation, a particular group within the church, the Editor or the Minister.

YOUR contributions, either via Mrs. Hill or direct to the Editor, are eagerly awaited. Go to it!

## SUN SENDS MAN OFF HIS HEAD ?

In complete contrast to last year when rain stopped play, the weather was really high summer for the annual picnic at Todmorden Park. About 50 folk went along and thoroughly enjoyed the "goings on". Many, let it be said, kept cool in the baths, but there were some who preferred to play rounders "out in the midday sun". One gentleman sun-worshipper, who shall remain nameless, went topless for the afternoon.

## IF YOU DON'T GET TO CHURCH.....

.....on Sunday, 7th September, turn to BBC 1 at 11.0 am., when "New Church Praise" will be one of three new hymnals being reviewed in a special programme.

## ROOM FOR MORE

Many thanks to the ladies who provided the Birthday Supper at the August meeting of the Ladies Guild, and a reminder to all that our next meeting will be on Tuesday, 16th September when the speaker will be Miss Kathleen Heap.
It has been good to see several newcomers at Guild meetings lately, but we are not full up yet and others are still very welcome.

## THE GOOD THINGS

Take all the good things that a good God sends
Thankful for happiness, home and friends.....
Take every blessing that comes your way.....
Grateful for every lovely day.
Health for the using of brain and hand;
Strength for the meeting of life's demands.
These things remember to think upon
When the bright years pass and the best has gone.
Fail not to utter a prayer of praise
For the boons and blessings of happier days.

## TIME TRAVELLERS

Armed with "Stella's Heptonstall History Trail" a band of our ladies made a pilgrimage up a hill and back into the 18th Century the other week. Although we were severely pressed for time we did visit the oldest Methodist Church in the world which is still in regular use. Here John Wesley laid the foundation stone in 1764 and on a visit to the village eight years later wrote:

"I preached at Heptonstall to some thousands of people who stood just before the preaching house on a lovely green which rises, slope by slope, like artificial terraces".

At one time the Sunday School had over 1,000 pupils, 72 teachers, 4 superintendants and 4 secretaries. Weavers' Square is also very attractive and we could have rested there and admired the view. Here is a "museum of stone" showing many different types of Yorkshire paving cobbles and pebbles from the River Calder, stone and granite setts, flags and even concrete.

Heptonstall Church, so plain outside, is a delight to enter. The beautiful interior has been completely refurnished through a large legacy, and we were pleased to meet the Vicar and hear lots of interesting facts. Emerging into the twilight we hastened through the graveyard which is reputed to hold 100,000 bodies - many of the gravestones have been used twice with a set of insciptions face down to the soil.

Although we saw the village pump we did not find the Grest Well of Heptonstall which blocked off when contamination from the graveyard made people ill long ago. Reminds you of Cowm reservoir, doesn't it?

After passing the haunted Chantry House we made our way to the White Lion for a good feast and shelter from a passing thunderstorm, then home by coach. It was a fascinating evening and we offer our sincere thanks to our disabled secretary for organising this trip better than the trip from which she is now recovering.

PILOTS!

The new season srats on.....

WEDNESDAY, 17th SEPTEMBER

and don't forget that .....

Friday, 17th Oct.- Sunday, 19th Oct.

is WEEKEND PILOT CAMP

for those aged 10 to 16 years.

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FELLOWS!

The Men's Fellowship opens on.....

THURSDAY, 25th SEPTEMBER at 7.30 pm.

Rev. A. Nash will be the speaker
so please come.

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WORSHIPPERS!

We look forward to seeing a vast congregation at the.....

HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICES

Sunday, 28th September - 10.30 & 6.0 p.m.

Preacher: Rev.A. Nash - Organist: Mr. A. Clegg

At the Morning Service the Junior Church will present: "THE FOUR SEASONS"

All Welcome!

## JARRING MUSIC

We had a guessing game to see who could guess the amount of the contents of the jar in which odd pennies and halfpennies have been placed in Sunday School. This was the brain child of Mrs. K. Mills and when full there was £10.07 in the jar. The persons guessing nearest to this amount were Mr. James Hill and Mrs. Stella Moss, but at the time of writing the pools man has not yet knocked on their doors with the prize. This gimmic has raised £11.70 towards the Decorating Fund: £10. from the money in the jar and £1.70 from the 2p charge for guessing.

For the benefit of those who think we have lost 7p of the original £10.07, we are pleased to draw attention to the fact that an even bigger jar has now been placed on top of the piano and the 7p started it off. By all means add to it.

## PENNIES BY THE TON

We hope that readers will not confuse the following item with the one above, but a Penny-A-Day Fund has been started and we would like you to join in. All you have to do is:

1. Find a suitable container, e.g., Jam jar, pickle jar or disused railway carriage.
2. Put into it 1p per day (without fail and even if you did put tuppence in Mrs.Mills's jar).
3. Bring your container to church (even if it is a disused railway carriage) at the Carol Service on Sunday morning 21st December. We know that sounds a long time hence, but it's only a hundred days from 12th September.

## AMENdment

Parliament was told on the 11th June that the Government will propose amendments to the Community Land Bill so as to exempt Churches and specified charities from the Bill's provisions.

## CHURCH DUTIES - LITTLEBOROUGH

### FAMILY CHURCH DOOR STEWARDS

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sept. 7th | CLOSED - HOLIDAY | | |
| 14th | Mr. J. Nairn | Mrs. Crossley | |
| 21st | Mr. F. Beattie | Mr. R. Mullins | |
| 28th | Mr. H.N. Hill | Mr. J. Lord | 10.30 |
| | Mr. E. Holt | Mr. J. Hol | 6.00 |
| Oct. 5th | Mr. J. Hill | Mr. J. Nairn | |

### COFFEE ROTA

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sept. 14th | W. Law | J. Law | K. Hill |
| 21st | D. Mallinson | | J. Mallinson |
| 28th | W. Spinks | P. Mullins | B. Merrick |
| Oct. 5th | J. Hobbs | | S. Moss |

### ORGANIST/PIANIST

| | |
|---|---|
| Sept. 7th | CLOSED |
| 14th | am. Mrs. M. Hill (No evening service) |
| 21st | am. Mrs. E. Cockcroft |
| 28th | am.) Mr. A. Clegg |
| | pm.) |

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### FAMILY CHURCH READINGS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sept. 7th | "Give full measure" Matthew 6: 19 - 34 | — |
| 14th | "Time off" Deuteronomy 5: 12-22 | P. Lightfoot |
| 21st | "Willing to Work" Matthew 20: 1 - 16 | M.G. Hill |
| 28th | "Crowned with honour" Psalm 8 | Harvest |
| Oct. 5th | | M.Law |

## CHURCH DUTIES - MILNROW

### FAMILY CHURCH DOOR STEWARDS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sept. 7th | Mr. J. Collins | Mrs. A. Collins |
| 14th | Mrs. F. Rae | Mrs. P. Royle |
| 21st | Mr. G. Buckley | Mr. A. Rae |
| 28th | Mrs. A. Baines | Mrs. J. Duffy |
| Oct. 5th | Mr. H. Mellor | Mrs. F. Butterworth |

### Elders Rota

| EVENING DOOR STEWARDS | DUTY ELDER | ORGANIST/PIANIST EVENING WORSHIP |
|---|---|---|
| Sept. | | |
| 7th Mr. B. Clough | Mr.A.Roberts | Mr. D. Logan |
| 14th Mr. J. Wild | Mr.R.Gillon | Mrs.E. Starkie |
| 21st Miss M. Wood | Mrs. N. Settle | Mr. A. Clegg |
| 28th Mr. K. Hey | Mrs.M.Howarth | Mr. J. Emmott |
| Oct. | | |
| 5th Mr. R.Gillon | Mr. J. Emmott | Mr. D. Logan |

### COMMUNION ROTA

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sept. 7th | Mr. A. Roberts | Mr. J. Emmott |
| Oct. 5th | Mr. B. Clough | Mrs. N. Settle |

### FAMILY CHURCH COFFEE ROTA

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sept. 7th | NO COFFEE BAR | |
| 14th | Mrs. E. Gartside | Mrs. J. Calow |
| 21st | Mrs. J. Munday | Mrs. M. Ogden |
| 28th | Mrs. J. Cudworth | Mrs. N. Settle |
| Oct. 5th | Mrs. E. Busill | Miss I. Tither |

Persons unable to take their appointments as listed are expected to find a suitable substitute.

### OFFERTORIES

| | Cash | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | am. | pm. | Envelopes | total |
| July 6th | 6.02 | 1.97 | 17.50 | 25.49 |
| 13th | 6.22 | 1.26 | 19.50 | 26.98 |
| 20th | 10.92 | 1.57 | 15.15 | 27.64 |
| 27th | 6.13 | 4.09 | 15.61 | 25.83 |
| | £29.29 | £8.89 | £67.76 | £105.94 |